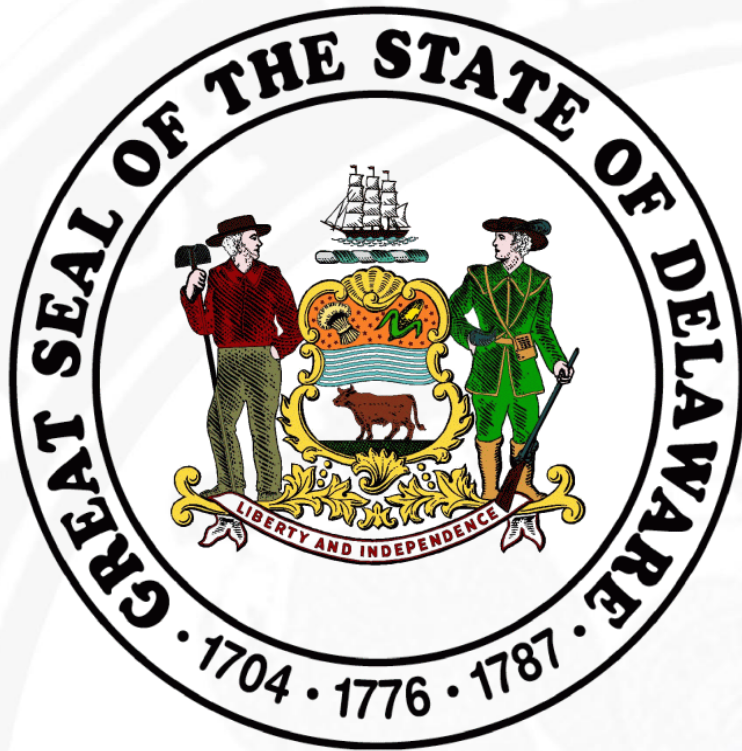


State of Delaware



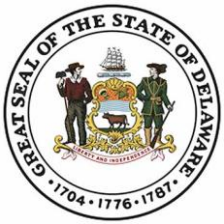
Conversations on: Early Childhood Education *Moving Delaware Forward Together*

October 2011



Education is an Economic Engine:

- ✓ Prepare our Children to Succeed Against Growing Global Competition
- ✓ Education Doesn't Start in Kindergarten



Where We Are Headed



Where We Are

- ✓ Working Together

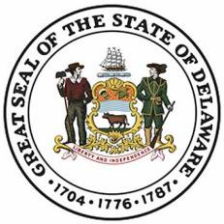
Early Learning Challenge

- ✓ What is it?
- ✓ Application Process

Delaware's Investment

- ✓ October: New Rates in Effect
- ✓ Stars for Early Success

Your Feedback & Ideas



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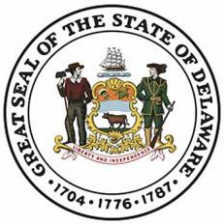
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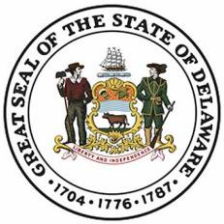
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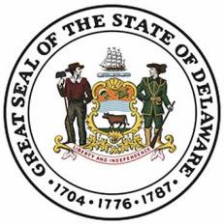


Early Learning Challenge: What is it?



1. The Early Learning Challenge is a competitive grant process run by the U.S. Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Health and Human Services.
2. Delaware is eligible for up to \$50M over a four-year period.
3. As many as 30-40 states are expected to compete, with 5-10 expected winners.
4. Timeline is tight: The application is due October 19.

Application Process: Consultation



**Please send feedback to
Governor.Markell@state.de.us**

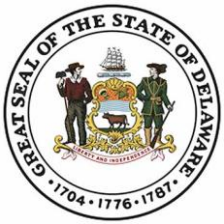
Visits to centers

Consultation with education leadership

- Early Childhood Council
- Delaware Head Start Association and Head Start Director's Council
- Wilmington Early Care and Education Council
- Sussex Early Care and Education Council
- P-20 Council and the United Way Education Advisory Council

Early Childhood Assessment Teams (ECATs)

- Convened in July to provide input for planning process



Early Learning Challenge: Key Focus Areas

States must address this area

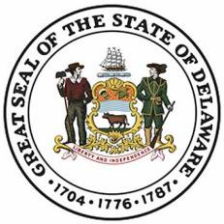
Use of Quality Rating & Improvement System

States have some flexibility in choosing what to address in these areas

Strengthening Educator Workforce

Promoting Better Outcomes

Measurement & Data Analysis



Overview of emerging policy objectives

Delaware's strategy is to focus grant efforts on areas that have high impact for children, and where Delaware has assets in place to build a national model

Strengthening Stars to Drive Quality Across Sectors

Building a Professional, Effective Workforce

Supporting the Health and Development Needs of the Whole Child

Aligning with K-12 to Measure and Improve Kindergarten Readiness

Across all areas, direct greatest resources and focus toward the children, families, and programs with the highest need

#1 Strengthening Stars to Drive Quality



- Expand participation in Stars and tiered reimbursement
- Build awareness and demand from parents for high quality
- Strengthen supports that help programs improve

#2 Building a Professional, Effective Workforce



- Enhance professional development offerings
- Continue developing credentials and career lattice
- Identify compensation opportunities as incentive for recruitment and retention of high-quality educators

#3 Supporting the Health and Development Needs of the Whole Child

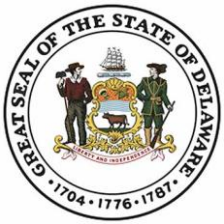


- Expand home visiting and behavioral and mental health efforts
- Build on early assessment programs such as Help Me Grow and the B.E.S.T. initiative to ensure screening and follow-up across systems

#4 Aligning with K-12 to Measure and Improve Kindergarten Readiness



- Plan for the development of a kindergarten entry assessment initiative
- Build on K-12 momentum through RTTT



Where We Are Headed



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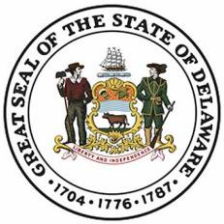
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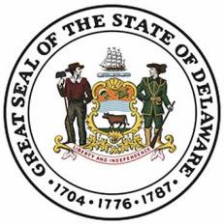


Investing in Our Future: \$22M to Increase Quality

\$12 million for Across-the-board Purchase of Care increase

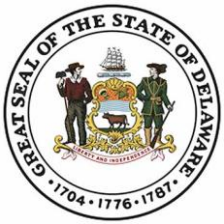
- 65% of market rate, plus \$0.50 per child per day
- Effective October 1st
- Reflected in November checks





\$10 million: Stars for Early Success

- **Increased reimbursement rates for higher Stars ratings**
 - Ratings of 3, 4, or 5 Stars, eligible for 80%, 90% or 100% of the market rate
 - **Effective October 1st** for providers already in the program
 - IT system update in progress, so may not be reflected in November check
- **Other types of assistance in January 2012**
 - More hands-on technical assistance
 - Grants for improvements identified through Stars
 - Funds for advanced education for staff



Where We Are Headed



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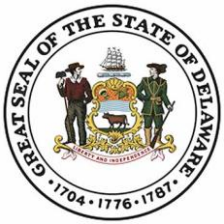
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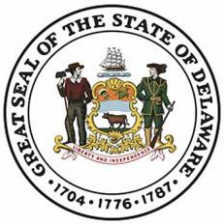
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Your Feedback & Ideas



What is Stars for Early Success?

- STARS is a rating system used to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education and school-age settings
- Overseen by Delaware Department of Education
- Technical assistance provided by Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood



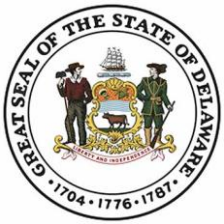
Stars for Early Success: Who and Why?

Current Participation:

- **181** Programs, **87** of which are at Star Level 1
- **84%** are Child Care Centers
- **14%** are Family Care Centers
- **2%** are Large Family Care Centers

Benefits of STARS participation

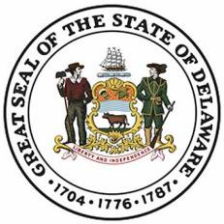
- **Improved:** Receive technical assistance and support to improve quality
- **Improved:** Eligible for awards and bonuses to improve quality
- **NEW:** Receive tiered POC reimbursement, depending on STAR rating
- **NEW:** Can showcase the quality ratings earned



Stars for Early Success: What are the criteria?

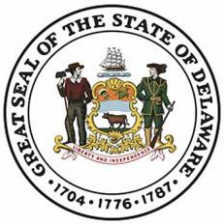
- Ratings are on a scale of 1 to 5 stars
- Four categories of criteria, each with multiple standards
- Same criteria but differing standards based on provider type (Centers, Family Child Care Providers, Large Family Child Care Providers, and School Age Providers)





Stars for Early Success: Progress in 2011

- **Increased technical assistance and supports**
 - 55 programs have moved up at least one Star level
- **Redesigned the Stars system**
 - Will implement new system in January 2012
 - Uses same 4 criteria, but moving towards point-based system rather than step-based
 - Allows programs to move based on strengths
- **Allocated funding**
 - \$10 million for technical assistance, grants, and tiered reimbursement, effective October 1st

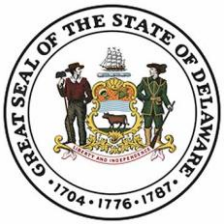


Stars for Early Success: Roll-Out

- **October:** Applications available online
- **November 30:** Due date for this round
- **December:** Prioritization for participation based on:
 - Percentage of provider's childcare slots devoted to Purchase of Care
 - High-need areas
 - Ages of children served
- **January: New standards rolled out**
 - Programs informed of participation
 - Orientation session and initial consultations will be held



Stars for Early Success: How You Can Apply



www.dieec.udel.edu/delaware-stars-participating



If you have questions
regarding the application,
contact:

Rena Hallam

Director, STARS
rhallam@udel.edu

Questions?

Comments?

Feedback?

Input?

Ideas?



Governor.Markell@state.de.us